Listing of Claims

Claims 1-164 (canceled)

165.   (Previously Presented) A system for processing documents, the system comprising:

at least one input receptacle that receives a stack of documents;

at least one output receptacle that receives the stack of documents;

an image scanning system that obtains an image of at least a portion of at least one side of each document in the stack and extracts, from the document image, an amount of information which uniquely identifies the document;

a transport mechanism that transports each of the documents in the stack, one at a time, from the at least one input receptacle, past the image scanning system, to the at least one output receptacle;

a memory that stores an amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document; and

a processor operating to compare the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies each document in the stack to the stored amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document, and to identify, as a suspect document, any document in the stack with matching information.

166.   (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 165, wherein the amount of information which uniquely identifies each document is a predetermined field of a document image, and wherein the amount of information which identifies a counterfeit document is a predetermined field of a counterfeit document image.

167.   (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 165, wherein the amount of information which uniquely identifies each document is an encoded data field of a document image, and wherein the amount of information which identifies a counterfeit document is an encoded field of a counterfeit document image.

168.   (Withdrawn) The system according to Claim 165, wherein the processor is a portion of the image scanner and is linked to the memory.

169.   (Withdrawn) The system according to Claim 165, wherein the processor is a controller that is linked to the image scanner and the memory.

170.   (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 165, wherein the image scanning system locates a field of the document image and extracts the amount of information from the field.

171.   (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 165, wherein the image scanning system comprises optical character recognition capability to locate the amount of information in the document image and to extract the amount of information from the document image.

172.   (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 165, wherein the image scanning system comprises optical character recognition capability to locate a field in the document image and to extract the amount of information from the field.

173.   (Withdrawn) The system according to Claim 165, wherein the transport mechanism transports the documents in a direction that is perpendicular to a longer edge of the document.

174.   (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 165, wherein the image scanning system obtains an image of at least a portion of each side of each document and extracts the amount of information which uniquely identifies the document from either document image.

Claims 175-188.   (Canceled).

189.   (Withdrawn) The system according to Claim 165, wherein the memory is remotely located from the at least one input receptacle and the image scanner.

190. (Withdrawn) The system according to Claim 189, wherein the memory is further linked to a network.

191. (Withdrawn) The system according to Claim 190, further comprising a plurality of systems linked to the network and each of the plurality of systems adapted to communicate with the memory via the network in comparing the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies each document to the stored amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document, and identifying, as a suspect document, any document with matching information.

192. (Withdrawn) The system according to Claim 191, wherein the plurality of systems are located at more than one financial institution.

193. (Withdrawn) The system according to Claim 165, further comprising a discrimination and authentication unit that tests each of the documents using one or more tests for detecting counterfeit documents; wherein:

the transport mechanism further transports each of the documents, one at a time, past the discrimination and authentication unit; and

the processor further updates the counterfeit document information stored in the memory with the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies each document that fails one or more tests for detecting counterfeit documents.

Claims 194-206.   (Canceled).

207. (Withdrawn) The system according to Claim 193, wherein the memory is remotely located from the at least one input receptacle, the image scanner and the discrimination and authentication unit.

208. (Withdrawn) The system according to Claim 207, wherein the memory is further linked to a network.

209.   (Withdrawn) The system according to Claim 208, further comprising a plurality of systems linked to the network and each of the plurality of systems adapted to communicate with the memory via the network in comparing the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies each document to the stored amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document, and identifying, as a suspect document, any document with matching information.

210.   (Withdrawn) The system according to Claim 209, wherein the plurality of systems are located at more than one financial institution.

211.   (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 165, wherein:

the documents are currency bills;

the amount of information which uniquely identifies the documents are currency bill serial numbers; and

the amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document is at least one counterfeit currency bill serial number.

212.   (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 211, wherein:

the image scanning system obtains an image of at least a portion of each side of each currency bill and extracts the currency bill serial number from either currency bill image;

the image scanning system further extracts, from either currency bill image, at least one of a series number, a signatory name, a back plate number, a city code, a front plate number, a print code and a dollar amount.

Claims 213-214.   (Canceled).

215.   (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 165, wherein:

the documents are checks;

the amount of information which uniquely identifies the documents is at least one of an ABA number, an account number and a check number; and

the amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document is at least one of a flagged ABA number, a flagged account number, and a flagged check number.

216.   (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 215, wherein the at least one flagged ABA number, the at least one flagged account number, and/or the at least one flagged check number are associated with counterfeit checks, accounts with insufficient funds, checks with stop payment orders, accounts with holds, overdrawn accounts, and/or closed accounts.

217.   (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 165, wherein:

the documents are currency bills and checks;

the amount of information which uniquely identifies the documents, that are currency bills, are currency bill serial numbers;

the amount of information which uniquely identifies the documents, that are checks, is at least one of an ABA number, an account number and a check number;

the amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document, that is a currency bill, is at least one counterfeit currency bill serial number; and

the amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document, that is a check, is at least one of a flagged ABA number, a flagged account number, and a flagged check number.

218.   (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 217, wherein the at least one flagged ABA number, the at least one flagged account number, and/or the at least one flagged check number are associated with counterfeit checks, accounts with insufficient funds, checks with stop payment orders, accounts with holds, overdrawn accounts, and/or closed accounts.

219.　(Previously Presented) A method for processing documents, the method comprising:

obtaining an image of at least a portion of at least one side of each of a plurality of documents transported from a stack of document;

extracting, from the image of each of the plurality of documents, an amount of information which uniquely identifies the document;

storing an amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document;

comparing the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies each of the plurality of documents to the stored amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document; and

identifying, as a suspect document, the documents from the stack with matching information.

220.　(Previously Presented) The method of claim 219, further comprising:

receiving the plurality of documents into at least one input receptacle; and

transporting each of the plurality of documents, one at a time, from the at least one input receptacle to at least one output receptacle.

221.　(Previously Presented) The method of Claim 219, further comprising rejecting any document identified as suspect.

222.　(Previously Presented) The method of Claim 219, further comprising halting processing of the plurality of documents if any of the documents are identified as suspect documents.

223.　(Previously Presented) The method of Claim 219, further comprising alerting an operator if any of the documents are identified as suspect documents.

224.　(Previously Presented) The method of Claim 219, further comprising indicating if any of the documents are identified as suspect documents.

225.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 219, further comprising:

obtaining an image of at least a portion of each side of each of the plurality of documents; and

extracting from either image of each of the plurality of documents, the amount of information which uniquely identifies the document.

Claims 226-237.   (Canceled).

238.   (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 219, further comprising:

accessing the information which identifies at least one counterfeit document via a network;

comparing, via the network, the extracted information uniquely identifying each of the plurality of documents to the stored counterfeit document information.

239.   (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 238, further comprising comparing, at a plurality of locations at more than one financial institution, the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies each of the plurality of documents to the stored amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document.

240.   (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 219, further comprising:

testing each of the plurality of documents with one or more tests for detecting counterfeit documents; and

updating the stored information which identifies at least one counterfeit document with the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies each document that fails the one or more tests for detecting counterfeit documents.

Claims 241-254.   (Canceled).

255.   (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 240, further comprising:

accessing, via a network, the stored amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document;

comparing, via the network, the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies each of the plurality of documents to the stored amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document; and

updating, via the network, the stored amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document with the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies each of the plurality of documents that fail any of the one or more tests for detecting counterfeit documents.

256.   (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 255, further comprising comparing, via the network, at a plurality of locations at more than one financial institution, the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies each of the plurality of documents to the stored amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document.

257.   (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 219, wherein:

the documents are currency bills;

the amount of information which uniquely identifies the documents are currency bill serial numbers; and

the amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document is at least one counterfeit currency bill serial number.

258.   (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 257, further comprising:

obtaining an image of at least a portion of each side of each currency bill and extracting the currency bill serial number from either currency bill image;

obtaining, from either currency bill image, at least one of a series number, a signatory name, a back plate number, a city code, a front plate number, a print code and a dollar amount.

Claims 259-260.   (Canceled).

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261.   (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 219, wherein:

the documents are checks;

the amount of information which uniquely identifies the documents is at least one of an ABA number, an account number and a check number; and

the amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document is at least one of a flagged ABA number, a flagged account number, and a flagged check number.

262.   (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 261, wherein the at least one flagged ABA number, the at least one flagged account number, and/or the at least one flagged check number are associated with counterfeit checks, accounts with insufficient funds, checks with stop payment orders, accounts with holds, overdrawn accounts, and/or closed accounts.

263.   (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 219, wherein:

the documents are currency bills and checks;

the amount of information which uniquely identifies the documents, that are currency bills, are currency bill serial numbers;

the amount of information which uniquely identifies the documents, that are checks, is at least one of an ABA number, an account number and a check number;

the amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document, that is a currency bill, is at least one counterfeit currency bill serial number; and

the amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document, that is a check, is at least one of a flagged ABA number, a flagged account number, and a flagged check number.

264.   (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 263, wherein the at least one flagged ABA number, the at least one flagged account number, and/or the at least one flagged check number are associated with counterfeit checks, accounts with insufficient funds, checks with stop payment orders, accounts with holds, overdrawn accounts, and/or closed accounts.

Claims 265-277.   (Canceled).

278.   (Previously Presented) A system for processing currency bills comprising:

at least one input receptacle that receives a stack of currency bills;

at least one output receptacle that receives the stack of currency bills;

an image scanning system that obtains an image of at least a portion of at least one side of each currency bill and extracts, from the currency bill image, a currency bill serial number;

a transport mechanism that transports each currency bill in the stack, one at a time, from the at least one input receptacle, past the image scanning system in a direction perpendicular to a wide edge of each currency bill, to the at least one output receptacle;

a memory that stores at least one counterfeit currency bill serial number; and

a processor that operates to compare the extracted currency bill serial number to the at least one counterfeit currency bill serial number stored in the memory and identify, as a suspect currency bill, any currency bill in the stack with matching information.

Claims 279-280.   (Canceled).

281.   (Previously Presented) A method for processing currency bills, the method comprising:

obtaining an image of at least a portion of at least one side of each of a plurality of currency bills from a stack of currency bills;

extracting, from the image of each of the plurality of currency bills, a currency bill serial number;

transporting the currency bills past a scanning system performing the steps of obtaining and extracting, the currency bills transported in a direction perpendicular to a wide edge of each currency bill;

storing at least one counterfeit currency bill serial number;

comparing the extracted currency bill serial numbers to the at least one stored counterfeit currency bill serial numbers; and

identifying, as a suspect currency bill, any currency bill in the stack where the extracted currency bill serial number matches the at least one stored counterfeit currency bill serial number.

Claims 282-283.   (Canceled).

284.   (Previously Presented) A system for processing currency bills comprising:

at least one input receptacle that receives currency bills;

at least one output receptacle that receives currency bills;

an image scanning system that obtains an image of at least a portion of at least one side of each currency bill and extracts, from the currency bill image, a currency bill serial number;

a discrimination and authentication unit that tests each currency bill using one or more tests for detecting counterfeit currency bills;

a transport mechanism that transports each currency bill, one at a time, from the at least one input receptacle, past the image scanning system and past the discrimination and authentication unit, to the at least one output receptacle;

a memory that stores at least one counterfeit currency bill serial number;

a processor that operates to compare the extracted currency bill serial number to the at least one counterfeit currency bill serial number stored in the memory and identify, as a suspect currency bill, any received currency bill with matching information;

the processor further updates the at least one counterfeit currency bill serial number stored in the memory with the extracted currency bill serial number of each currency bill that fails any of the one or more tests for detecting counterfeit currency bills.

Claims 285-286.   (Canceled).

287. (Previously Presented) A method for processing currency bills, the method comprising:

obtaining an image of at least a portion of at least one side of each of a plurality of currency bills;

extracting, from the image of each of the plurality of currency bills, a currency bill serial number;

storing at least one counterfeit currency bill serial number;

comparing the extracted currency bill serial numbers to the at least one stored counterfeit currency bill serial number;

identifying, as a suspect currency bill, any currency bill where the extracted currency bill serial number matches the at least one stored counterfeit currency bill serial number; and

testing each of the plurality of currency bills with one or more tests for detecting counterfeit currency bills; and

updating the at least one stored counterfeit currency bill serial number with the extracted currency bill serial number of any currency bill that fails any of the one or more tests for detecting counterfeit currency bills.

Claims 288-289. (Canceled).

290.   (Previously Presented) A system for processing checks comprising:

at least one input receptacle that receives checks;

at least one output receptacle that receives checks;

an image scanning system that obtains an image of at least a portion of at least one side of each check and extracts at least one of an ABA number, an account number, and a check number from the check image;

a transport mechanism that transports each check, one at a time, from the at least one input receptacle, past the image scanning system, to the at least one output receptacle;

a memory that stores at least one of a flagged ABA number, a flagged account number, and a flagged check number;

a processor that operates to compare the extracted ABA number, the extracted account number, and/or the extracted check number to the at least one flagged ABA number, the at least one flagged account number, and/or the at least one flagged check number stored in the memory, and the processor further identifies, as a suspect check, any check that has a match.

Claims 291-292.   (Canceled).

293.   (Previously Presented) A method for processing checks, the method comprising:

obtaining an image of at least a portion of at least one side of each of a plurality of checks;

extracting, from the image of each of the plurality of checks, at least one of an ABA number, an account number, and a check number;

storing at least one of a flagged ABA number, a flagged account number, and a flagged check number;

comparing the extracted ABA number, the extracted account number, and/or the extracted check number to the at least one flagged ABA number, the at least one flagged account number, and/or the at least one flagged check number; and

identifying, as a suspect check, any check with matching information.

Claims 294-295.   (Canceled).

296.   (Previously Presented) A system for processing checks comprising:

at least one input receptacle that receives checks;

at least one output receptacle that receives checks;

an image scanning system that obtains an image of at least a portion of at least one side of each check and extracts, from the check image, at least one of an ABA number, an account number, and a check number;

a discrimination and authentication unit that tests each check using one or more tests for detecting counterfeit checks;

a transport mechanism that transports each check, one at a time, from the at least one input receptacle, past the image scanning system and past the discrimination and authentication unit, to the at least one output receptacle;

a memory that stores at least one of a flagged ABA number, a flagged account number, and a flagged check number;

a processor that operates to compare the extracted ABA number, the extracted account number, and/or the extracted check number to the at least one flagged ABA number, the at least one flagged account number, and/or the at least one flagged check number and identify, as a suspect check, any check with matching information; and

the processor further updates the at least one flagged ABA number, the at least one flagged account number, and/or the at least one flagged check number stored in the memory with the extracted ABA number, the extracted account number, and/or the extracted check number of any check that fails any of the one or more tests for detecting counterfeit checks.

Claims 297-298.   (Canceled).

299.   (Previously Presented) A method for processing checks, the method comprising:

obtaining an image of at least a portion of at least one side of each of a plurality of checks;

extracting, from the image of each of the plurality of checks, at least one of an ABA number, an account number, and a check number;

storing at least one of a flagged ABA number, a flagged account number, and a flagged check number;

comparing the extracted ABA number, the extracted account number, and/or the extracted check number to the at least one flagged ABA number, the at least one flagged account number, and/or the at least one flagged check number;

identifying, as a suspect check, any check with matching information; and

testing each of the plurality of checks with one or more tests for detecting counterfeit checks; and

updating the at least one flagged ABA number, the at least one flagged account number, and/or the at least one flagged check number with the extracted ABA number, the extracted account number, and/or the extracted check number of each check that fails any of the one or more tests for detecting counterfeit checks.

Claims 300-301.   (Canceled).

302.   (Previously Presented) A system for processing currency bills and checks, the system comprising:

at least one input receptacle that receives currency bills and checks;

at least one output receptacle that receives currency bills and checks;

an image scanning system that obtains an image of at least a portion of at least one side of each currency bill and each check;

the image scanning system extracts a serial number from each currency bill image;

the image scanning system extracts at least one of an ABA number, an account number, and a check number from each check image;

a transport mechanism that transports each currency bill and each check, one at a time, from the at least one input receptacle, past the image scanning system, to the at least one output receptacle;

a memory that stores at least one counterfeit currency bill serial number and at least one of a flagged ABA number, a flagged account number, and a flagged check number;

a processor that operates to compare the extracted serial number of each currency bill to the at least one counterfeit currency bill serial number stored in the memory, and to identify, as a suspect currency bill, any currency bill having a serial number that matches the at least one counterfeit currency bill serial number; and

the processor further operates to compare the extracted ABA number, the extracted account number, and/or the extracted check number of each check to the at least one flagged ABA number, the at least one flagged account number, and/or the at least one flagged check number stored in the memory, and to identify, as a suspect check, any check that has a match.

Claims 303-304.   (Canceled).

305.   (Previously Presented) A method for processing currency bills and checks, the method comprising:

obtaining an image of at least a portion of at least one side of each of a plurality of currency bills;

obtaining an image of at least a portion of at least one side of each of a plurality of checks;

extracting, from the image of each of the plurality of currency bills, a serial number;

extracting, from the image of each of the plurality of checks, at least one of an ABA number, an account number, and a check number;

storing at least one counterfeit currency bill serial number;

storing at least one of a flagged ABA number, a flagged account number, and a flagged check number;

comparing the extracted serial number to the at least one stored counterfeit currency bill serial number;

comparing the extracted ABA number, the extracted account number, and/or the extracted check number of each of the plurality of checks to the at least one flagged ABA number, the at least one flagged account number, and/or the at least one flagged check number;

identifying, as a suspect currency bill, the currency bills with the extracted serial numbers that match the at least one stored counterfeit currency bill serial number; and

identifying, as a suspect check, the checks with the extracted ABA number, the extracted account number, and/or the extracted check number that match the at least one flagged ABA number, the at least one flagged account number, and/or the at least one flagged check number.

Claims 306-324.   (Canceled).